

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 051241Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL MILAN

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4600

C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 0551

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: DC LEADER BASSETTI APPRAISAL OF LOMBARDY CONGRESS FEB
28-29

REF MILAN 0487, MILAN 0504, MILAN 0527

1. BASSETTI WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE LOMBARDY REGIONAL CONGRESS. HE THOUGHT THAT A DEFINITE TURNING POINT HAD BEEN REACHED IN LOMBARDY. AFTER TEN YEARS OF WORK TO TRY TO BREAK THE HOLD OF THE RIGHT, HE THOUGHT THAT HE HAD SUCCEEDED. DESPITE DOUBTS ABOUT THE RELIABILITY AND SOLIDITY OF THE FORCES THAT SUPPORTED ZACCAGNINI, HE CLAIMED THAT THEY WERE IN FACT VERY COMPACT AND VERY CLOSELY AGREED. IT WOULD GIVE THE REFORMIST ELEMENTS OF THE PARTY A STRONG HAND IN ROME.

2. HE WAS ESPECIALLY HAPPY ABOUT THE ADOPTION OF HIS RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A KIND OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO RECAST THE PARTY CONSTITUTION THAT HAD BEEN ADOPTED IN MILAN BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY AND IT HAD BEEN PRESENTED IN A NUMBER OF OTHER DC CONGRESSES. (MILAN 0527) WHILE IT HAD NOT BEEN ACCEPTED IN TRENTINO, ABOUT FORTY (49) PERCENT OF THE DELEGATES HAD WALKED OUT IN PROTEST. IN EMILIA, IT HAD NOT BEEN PRESENTED AT ALL BECAUSE HIS LOCAL BACKERS HAD GOTTEN COLD FEET AT THE LAST
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MOMENT. BUT HE IS WORKING TO GO TO ROME WITH A GROUP OF ABOUT A HUNDRED TO A HUNDRED AND FIFTY DELEGATES

WHO WOULD BE PLEDGED TO WORK FOR THIS KIND OF A REFORM OF THE PARTY. HE HAD TWO MOTIVES IN MIND. ONE WAS THE FUNDAMENTAL CLEANING UP OF THE STRUCTURE AND OF THE PARTY ITSELF. THE OTHER WAS TO USE THIS ISSUE AS A MEANS OF BINDING TOGETHER A LOBBY AT THE DC CONGRESS TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAM FOR WHICH ZACCAGNINI STOOD. HE WAS FAIRLY OPTIMISTIC THAT HE HAD REACHED THAT GOAL.

3. THE GREAT SHORTCOMING OF THE LOMBARDY REGIONAL CONGRESS HAD BEEN THE FAILURE TO AGREE UPON ANY KIND OF SUBSTANTIVE POSITION. THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCUSSION OF PROGRAMMATIC MATTER FRMM THE FLOOR. BUT NO REAL PROGRESS.

4. WHILE BASSETTI WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME IN LOMBARDY, HE THOUGHT THE RESULTS IN THE OTHER REGIONAL CONGRESSES WERE CONSIDERABLY LESS ENCOURAGING.FINA

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